

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 USSS-00 IO-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 ACDA-19 SCS-03 SCA-01 DRC-01 /124 W

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R 091310Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7210

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2249

E.O. 11652: GDS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE

TAGS: XX, SU

SUBJ: SUDAN REACTION TO MIDEAST CONFLICT: SIT REP. II

REF: KHARTOUM 2240 (SIT REPT. I)

1. EVENTS: KHARTOUM REMAINS QUIET. PRESIDENT NIMEIRI ADDRESSED NATION EVEINING OCT. 8, STATING SUDANESE TROOPS HAVE DEPARTED KHARTOUM TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFLICT. HE ALSO CALLED FOR BLOOD DONORS AND FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS. EMB UNDERSTANDS FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT POSSIBLY A BATTALION OF INFANTRY AIR-LIFTED CAIRO OCTOBER 8 FOR REAR ECHELON DUTIES. NIMEIRI ALSO APPOINTED (OCT.7) CHIEF OF STAFF LT. GENERAL AWAD KHALAFALLA TO CONCURRENT POST OF MINDEF (POST NIMEIRI PREVIOUSLY HELD). WE SPECULATE THAT CHANGE, BESIDES BEING MARK EVIDENT TRUST IN KHALAFALLA'S LOYALTY, ALSO MADE TO SIMPLIFY COMMAND STRUCTURE, RELIEVE NIMEIRI FROM ROUTINE MINDEF DUTIES AND EMPHASIZE HIS ROLE AS CONSTITUTIONAL CHIEF OF STATE RATHER THAN GENERAL. GOS DIRECTED ALL MEDICAL WORKERS THROUGHOUT SUDAN OCT. 8-9 REPORT TO THEIR FACILITIES, HAS ORGANIZED THREE MEDICAL TEAMS FOR THE "OPERATIONAL AREAS", AND SUDAN RED CRESCENT HAS ISSUED APPEALS FOR BLOOD DONOR REGISTRATION. GOS HAS ALSO LIFTED EXPORT EMBARGO ON CERTAIN FOOD ITEMS FOR EGYPT OIMPOSED
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EARLIER BECAUSE OF SUPPLY SHORTAGES SUDAN).

2. PRESS COMMENT: CONTROLLED PRESS LAUDS FIGHTING FORCES IN THEIR "HOURS OF DESTINY", BUT EDITORIALS OCT. 9 ALSO HAVE STRONG ANTI-US TONE, ALLEGING "SUSPICIOUS MOVEMENTS US SIXTH FLEET" AND CLAIMING "US TRYING STOP WAR IN ORDER STOP DEFEAT OF ISRAEL." OCT. 8 US CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION CASTIGATED AS INDICATING US HAS "... NO POLICY BUT TO SUPPORT ISRAEL". AL-AYAM EDITORIAL CALLS ON ARAB FRIENDS (WITH USSR AS LEADER) TO CONFRONT US IMPERIALIST POSITIONS DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN SAGGING ISRAELI MILITARISM.

3. PUBLIC ATTITUDES: PUBLIC LESS EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED THAN PRESS ARTICLES WOULD SUGGEST. WHILE PREFERRING ARAB VICTORY, ACTUAL CONFLICT IS REMOVED FROM SUDAN. NO INCIDENTS OR INDICATIONS HOSTILITY TOWARD AMERICANS.

4. COMMENT: BENEATH SINCERE EXHORTATIONS FOR ARAB VICTORY AND PRESS BOMBAST ON FANCIED US ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST (WHICH GOS PROBABLY BELIEVES IS RITUAL POLITICAL REQUIREMENT), GOS APPEARS HAVE DONE MINIMUM DEEMED ESSENTIAL DEMONSTRATE SUDAN'S "ARABISM" IN TIME CRISIS. PRIVATELY, OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED HOPE CONFLICT CAN BE ENDED QUICKLY IN ORDER AVOID POLITICAL OR MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS WHICH COULD JEOPARDIZE REGIME'S CURRENT PRIORITY FOCUS ON INTERNAL AND ECONOMIC DEGSLOPMENTS. WHILE PUBLIC ANTI-AMERICAN HOSTILITY ABSENT, SITUATION COULD CHANGE RAPIDLY SHOULD MILITARY SITUATION OR POLICY DEVELOPMENTS PROVIDE CATALYST.
BREWER

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